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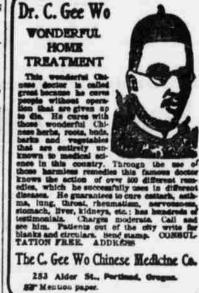
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From Over The Sea

By KATE M. CLEARY

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A resplendent mid-March morning; overhead a turquoise sky, across which shallops of pearl raced in radiant rivalry. The trees that bordered the broad avenues of the residence district were murmurously important, each having harbored secrets of the coming summer to confide.

Bertram Hale approached a charming residence set back from the street. It was a new house, all gables and gargoyles and jutting windows and varihued shingles. The windows glittered goldenly in the morning sunshine. "Mr. Hale!"

A shadow crossed the broad, kindly face of the Swedish maid who opened the door to him.

"I-I am sorry, but"-

She faltered. It was easy enough to utter the falsehood sanctioned by convention to any other caller, but to him who had always been so gay, so courteous, so truly the kind of lover that all the world perforce must love, she found it impossible to speak the sentence with which he was to be greeted.

"That's all right, Lena," he said quite as cordially as though she had held the door wide for him in the old fashion instead of standing stolidly on



"LENA," CRIED THE GIRL, "TELL ME WHAT IS WHONG!"

the threshold. "I know Miss Ruth wished you to say she was not at home to me, but—she is at home—if not to me. I want you to take her this box, s, you know, stand for kind thoughts."

"I will try." Lens assured him, with friendly willingness. "Come into the hall-the parlor.

"No; I'll wait here," young Hale decided and sat down on the ledge of the Ruth Seldon looked up from her desk.

"Come!" she called. Lena, her flat, muscular figure gown-

ed in trim blue and white, her girth of body encircled by the strings of a snowy apron, and a bit of a cap adjusted stiffly on her sandy hair, advanced, parcel in hand.

"Mr. Hale," she said coaxingly, "he says will you come down to see him just one little minute."

though Bertram Hale would have disputed this assertion. But she was a mighty attractive looking girl. The kimono of silvery silk which she wore, with its shell pink lining and loosely knotted, gold fringed girdle, was just the thing to bring out the fresh tints of her skin and the clear luster of her blue, black lashed eyes, "Take it back, Lena!" she com-

manded. "Say to Mr. Hale that I cannot receive him. Tell him that he will be handed a-a package from me this afternoon."

Lena knew well what that package would contain, for on the desk were letters-many letters. On the shelf over the desk a photograph frame still stood, but the handsome face that used to smile forth from it so sunnily was there no longer. A tiny leather box topped the letters. Lens could not be positive what the box contained, but she did notice that no ring with one white flaming stone sparkled, as formerly, on the hand of her young mistress.

"He does look that sad, miss!" Lena remarked, lingering. "I-I think maybe he is sick," she insinuated.

Ruth flushed and her lips parted irresolutely. The next instant she turned back to her desk.

"Take him back the flowers-I suppose they are flowers-and the message at once!"

Lena's sigh seemed to be drawn from the very soles of her low shoes, but she went away-an obedient laggard. Hale saw her descending and stood up. "Never mind, Lena!" he said gently. "Leave the flowers on the hall table. She may change her mind. And here's

your trouble." "Thank you, sir. I hope so, sir. Young folks do make mistakes some-

with all her love letters and little love tent upon realities, the other upon

turn, sat looking with a feeling of strange desolation at the frame which had held the picture of Bertram Hale. She wondered as the glorious spring day were away how it would seem to go on and on without him through all the days to come. She was right to break with him. He had been wrong to show Mabel Harvey so much attention, even if she was his cousin and

here on a visit. He had almost forgotten one of the dances she had promised him because he had been showing Mabel the family portraits, But how strange it would seem note look for ward to his approval whenever she donned a new dress or learned a new song or chanced on some beautiful thought or story!

Yes, it would be all very strangeand sad-but doubtless she would be come used to the separation. Only-

A quick shrick startled her. It came from below stairs. It was such a choked cry of horror as she fancied might be uttered by one suddenly assailedstabbed!

She sprang up, ran to the door and down the stairs.

The front door stood ajar. Ruth could see the gray clad form of the postman crossing the street from their house. Lena, ghastly white, an open letter in her rough hand, was leaning some terrible shock.

"Lens," cried the girl, "tell me what is wrong!" Mutely the peasant woman held out

the letter. "I cannot read it," Ruth cried, "It is in your language. Tell me! You

have had bad news?" "De worst news-de worst!" panted. Her stricken face was uplifted. Its pathetic hopelessness, its bitter abandonment, went straight to the heart of the girl beside her.

"It is my lover, Miss Ruth! He vas to be my man, but I did get angry and sail away with mine own people, and say no. I vould not marry him. But he did write to me, and I vas sorry and I did answer and say to him to But now he is dead-he is dead!" Her voice rose into a pitiful wail. "He is dead, and he can nefer come any more at all-not efer any

Then there was no sound save her broken, desolate sobbing. Ruth Seidon put her arms around the broad shoulders. She kissed the wet cheeks Grand. Leave at Astorian. and soothed the coarse, yellow hair. "Poor Lena!" she whispered. "Poor Lena! Come and He down. No, never

mind the work! Come!" She shut the door and drew the maid away up to her own room.

"I said I did not lofe him, but I did! I vas angry, and I say vot vas not true. Now he vill nefer know that I did lofe him alvays; that I vill never have no other man in all my life, for he vas the only vun for me!"

When she had quieted the suffering creature, Ruth left her and went back to her desk. She looked at the pack age, at the frame from which the pic Lena." He extended a square parcel ture was absent. It seemed as though as he spoke. "There are panales in it. this news that had been sent from What if the message had been of Ber tram? Would she be angry now, resentful? Bit by bit she went over their little dissension. Was it worth a beartache when all was said? Could she ever love any other as she loved him? Her heart gave prompt reply.

Mechanically she untied the package and replaced the picture in the frame, the letters in the drawer, the other treasures each in its accustomed place. Then she opened the tiny box and took out a ring that sparkled like a star of promise and slipped it on her finger. "For he vas de only vun for me!"

"Poor Lena!" said the girl, who, with shining eyes and rose red cheeks, went downstairs to the telephone. On the Ruth Seidon was not a beauty, al- way she paused to open the little box on the hall table and to fasten the pansies over her heart.

Polite Conversation.

In the days when conversation ranked as an elegant art to be cultivated with care exception might have been taken to Miss Janet Miller's application of the word. Miss Miller, however, had her own ideas as to what constituted conversation in Brambleville.

Miss Miller was entertaining the sewing circle on the day when Mrs. Gregory, a summer resident, made her first appearance as a helpful member, and Miss Miller greeted her with great cordiality.

"You've come a mite late," she said cheerfully, "but that's no matter. The folks are in the full tide of conversation, two groups of 'em, you see, and I'll introduce you round soon as you choose which you'd rather join and I can hand you your work. I circ'late from one group to the other.

"Those six ladies over in the bay window are hemming, and their subject o' conversation just now is dish mops. Those out in the back room are cutting and basting, and they are conversing about gas stoves. So you just name your choice, either one."

Fathers and Sons.

Observers are struck with the camaraderie carried to the verge of equality which obtains between fathers and their schoolboy sons, so that their mutual companionship is a source of unfeigned pleasure to both and should prove a safeguard against many evils in the future. This is essentially a modern development and stands to the something to buy a pair of gloves for credit of the fathers of the present isy.-London Spectator.

Shams and Realities.

The good man quietly discharges his He walked down the path and off up futy and shuns ostentation; the vain the avenue. The maid went back to man considers every deed lost that is her work. And Ruth, the package not publicly displayed. The one is intokens tied neatly up and ready to re- semblance; the one aims to be good, the other to appear so.-Robert Hall,

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TH

the co-partnership of Hop Hing Co., doing business as merchants contractors for Chinese labor at 374 Bond street, Astoria, Oregon, this day dissolved by the retiremen Yen Jin Bong, Womg Hond, Lee Ye The business will hereafter be condu ed by the remaining members of HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR ALL company. Chew Gong, manager, on the Elder for Vancouver, where will embark for China. He will ret next year. It's partners, Eng Fook John Hop, will manage the busin

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